

Col. Miller Finds Americans Not Interested in Big Bout

GENERAL APATHY FACES COL. MILLER'S SCHEMES FOR STAGING BIG BOUT

By LOUIS A. DOUGHER.

With less than three months to go, the proposed championship ring contest between Bashful Jess Willard, titleholder, and Ferocious and Finicky Frederick Fulton, the challenger, is meeting with a distinctly apathetic spirit on the part of the great American public. Although he has both boxers signed to an agreement calling for twenty rounds to a decision, Col. Joseph Carson Miller, of Tulsa, Okla., is now said to be dickering with boxing authorities in Minneapolis, Minn., where the law allows only ten-round bouts without decisions. If Willard climbs through the ropes for a ten-round decisionless contest with Fulton, somebody will be due to lose a wad of money.

The unpopularity of the world's heavyweight champion is proving a big stumbling block to the ambitions of Colonel Miller, good sport that he is. Baltimore would have been an ideal place for a twenty-round championship contest, but the authorities, claiming to speak for the general public, frowned on the match the moment it was suggested. Connecticut allows boxing between small fellows, but could not countenance a Willard-Fulton battle. With Connecticut and Baltimore dropping out, all chances of the bout taking place in the East vanished. Now the pendulum has swung to the Middle West, but it seems destined to go even as far West as Denver, Colo.

"I like Baltimore," Colonel Miller told the writer recently, "but I've also received a fine offer from Denver, where the boys are real red bloods and the laws allow a twenty-round bout for a championship. In many ways I prefer Denver, but I haven't made up my mind yet." Since then the East has quit bidding and Colonel Miller has hiked to Minneapolis.

Ring promoters in Denver are very much in earnest about bringing the Willard-Fulton contest to their fair city, and Colonel Miller will have little trouble finding some real money out there. It was a lack of money and a plethora of idle talk which disgusted the Oklahoma showman in the East. The moment he showed a certified check for \$10,000 and asked a New Haven, Conn., promoter to match it, the second New Haven didn't desire to stage the battle.

If New Orleans would agree to stage the bout on July 4, as called for in the articles of agreement signed by both Willard and Fulton, the Crescent City would have it. That's what Col. Miller told me, anyway. But New Orleans is afraid of its weather on Independence Day. Both Dominick Tortorich and Matt Hinkel, clubbing together to raise the guarantee, said that it would be better for the bout to take place in September or October, or even as late as November.

"But I've signed up the boxers for a bout on July 4," insisted the "Kun-til" and if I wait till later it will fall through. That is, so far as this agreement is concerned.

Col. Miller is surprised at the lack of interest being shown in the proposed contest. He expected that the moment it was known that Willard would defend his title a flood of bona fide offers would pour in upon him for the bout. The offers did pour in, but not one was worth anything. It was then that he began to think of making it a "private affair" on his own ranch in Oklahoma. Since then, however, Denver has begun to talk business, which means money in ring parlance, and Colonel Miller will go to the mile high city some time this week for a conference with the Denver promoters.

Now that the flurry in the East has died down, nobody east of the Mississippi seems to care who hangs whether Willard fights on the Fourth of July or goes fishing. Indeed, some cruel folks have hinted that if "both big boys want to fight, let them fight the Germans."

A newspaper syndicate, with headquarters in Cleveland, is on the war path against Colonel Miller's proposed tussle for the title. It is flooding the country, especially the Middle West, with circulars denouncing the "fight for dollars on the nation's birthday, when thousands of young Americans are giving up their lives on European battlefields to have that nation." This campaign of pitiless publicity is having its effect, too, and coupled with Willard's lack of popularity, is killing about all interest in the scramble for the crown.

There's a tremendous difference between the present times and those preceding the Jeffries-Johnson battle at Reno. For an entire year Jeffries' name was in the papers, with discussions of his chances, of his physical condition, of his efforts to get into shape. For three months before the bout, newspapers carried regularly stories from the rival camps. The public was decidedly interested in that combat which was to "bring back the title to the white race." With three months to go, there is hardly a word said about the Willard-Fulton bout. The champion is generally considered to have ruined the boxing game in favor of a circus. Where he might have gained great popularity through his victory over the despised Jack Johnson, Willard's greed was noticeable from the very beginning, and immediately alienated those who would have acclaimed him.

His unwillingness to defend his title against all challengers, like all true champions in ring history, has ruined his reputation. Today he is not wanted anywhere, though Denver seems willing to take a chance.

Expect a Small Gate.
Eastern followers of boxing believe that there will be a small attendance when Willard and Fulton meet. The shrewdest promoters along the Atlantic coast say that, where Jeffries and Johnson drew \$270,000, Willard and Fulton will be lucky to draw \$100,000.

In the first place, there was no counter attraction when the Reno bout was staged. Then, too, Jeffries was a Californian meeting a negro boxer, thus bringing in "native son" sentiment and animosity.

The greatest rival attraction in the world, a real fight between millions of fighting men, is working against the Willard-Fulton tussle. Then, too, Willard is considered a "cheese champion" and his challenger an "in-and-out."

If the Willard-Fulton scrap slumbers down to a ten-round, no-decision affair, there won't be as much interest in it as there will be in an ordinary baseball game. Right now there's no telling what Colonel Miller will do with his agreement.

JOE RAY HANGS UP NEW RECORD IN MEET FOR JACKIES
GREAT LAKES, Ill., April 7.—Joe Ray, of the Illinois A. C., broke the central A. A. C. record for one mile at the A. A. U. meet here. Ray sprinted the distance in 4:20, which is two and one-fifth seconds less than the previous record, also held by Ray.

Ray's record was made in a meet at which the Jackies at the Green Lakes Naval training station were hosts. He won handily from a crack field, including Eddie Fall.

BUCK HERZOG DECIDES TO GO BACK TO MCGRAW
GREENVILLE, S. C., April 7.—Charlie Herzog has decided to drop negotiations with the Boston Braves and will report to the Giants on their return home to open the season. Herzog, who has been with the Braves since last Tuesday, announced today that he had been unable to reach any agreement with Perry Houghton, manager of the Braves, although he had done everything in his power to bring the deal for his transfer to a satisfactory termination.

Stalling was expected here, but did not arrive. It is believed that Herzog and Houghton will demand the return of Jess Barnes and Larry Doyle from the Giants.

All Is Fair in Love and Marriage



CLARENDON OPENS SEASON TODAY IN MEETING SOLDIERS

Clarendon A. C. baseball players open their season today in the Virginia town with the Fort Myer Hospital Corps team. The soldiers recently played Georgetown University, but were without the services of several of their crack players.

FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD LAD BRILLIANT IN TITLE WIN
NEW YORK, April 7.—Lieut. King Smith and G. Carlton Shaffer yesterday won the national indoor tennis doubles championship on the courts of the Seventh Regiment Armory, defeating Cecil Donaldson and W. H. Tilden, Jr., of Philadelphia. In straight sets, 7-5, 6-2, and 6-4.

WESTERN TAKES LOOSE GAME FROM ST. ALBANS
Western High School has another game to its credit today, having won a loosely played game from St. Albans by 11 to 0. The Red and White team was ahead all the way.

FULTZ GOES TO FRANCE.
NEW YORK, April 7.—David L. Fultz, famous one time as a football player at Brown University, more recently as president of the Baseball Players' Fraternity, professional baseball player, football official and lawyer, is going to France as a member of the athletic corps now being placed with the American army there. This announcement was made by the National War Work Council of the Y. M. C. A.

HOME RUN WINS GAME.
ANNAPOLIS, Md., April 7.—A home run drive with two men on base enabled the Navy baseball team to defeat Fordham University, of New York yesterday, 5 to 3. Score: Navy, 5; Fordham, 3.

BOWIE RACES
April 1st to 13th Inc.
SEVEN RACES EACH DAY
First Race at 2:30 P. M.
Special Trains Leave White House Station, 1:15 & 1:40 P. M.
Admission, \$1.65 Ladies, \$1.10 (including War Tax.)

Sporting Spotlight Now Hits This Trio



This is Jess Barnes, and "Muggsy" McGraw is stuck on him, but if Buck Herzog insists on kicking over the traces, Percy Houghton will demand that the Giants send this fellow back to the Braves.

GEORGETOWN MAY PLAY SOLDIER TEAM TODAY
Georgetown may play the Quartermaster's team at Fort Myer today if arrangements can be made. The Hilltoppers have been invited to play exhibition games at the various camps on Sunday, and have obtained permission to give the soldiers a treat.

BOWIE RACE ENTRIES.
Entries for tomorrow's races at Bowie are: First race—Purse, \$500; maiden two-year-olds; four furlongs; Austin, 114; Madam King, 111; Midge, 119; Little Maude, 111; Louis Mack, 114; Tiger Row, 114; Bama A., 114; Tiddler, 114.

SECOND RACE—Purse, \$500; maiden three-year-olds; six furlongs; toward, 115; Jack Schae, 116; Postage Stamp, 111; Candidate II, 114; 114; Six Sun's Journey, 111; Joseph P. Murphy, 116; Louis V., 111; Jack of Spades, 116; Dublin Mary, 111; Greek Slave, 111.

THIRD RACE—Purse, \$500; claiming; three-year-olds and up; mile and a sixteenth; Mark G. 112; Inouette, 102; Jimmy Burns, 100; O'Leary, 99; Billy Oliver, 117; Bulaeas, 112; Knight, 112.

FOURTH RACE—Purse, \$500; claiming; three-year-olds and up; mile and a sixteenth; Kilmier, 110; Carl, 107; Royal Astro, 112; Dromedary, 112; Blackford, 112; Richard Langdon, 117; Margaret Star, 111; Dairton, 110.



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DREYFUS IS CONFIDENT OF HAVING GOOD YEAR
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"The war may hurt some," said Dreyfus, in an interview here today, "but people need plenty of amusement and baseball is a leading sport. We have a good club in Pittsburgh this year," continued Dreyfus, "and we are looking forward to a prosperous season."

C. U. WINS IT.
Catholic University will play Gallaudet on Wednesday. The Brookland returned home today with a 5 to 3 win over Lehigh at Bethlehem, Pa., yesterday.

ROSS SCHOOL WINS.
Ross School Athletics won the grade school indoor title meet held at the Y. M. C. A. last night. Wallace-Towers was second.

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CINCINNATI WON'T TRY CHEATING ON DAYLIGHT SAVERS

CINCINNATI, April 7.—All National League games at Redland Field will follow the clock this season, according to President August Herrmann. All week-end games, including those on Saturday, will begin at 3 o'clock and on Sunday at 2:30 o'clock by the clock. There will be no effort on the part of the Reds to cheat the fans out of their added hour of daylight.

TONY IS INDICTED.
NASHVILLE, Tenn., April 7.—Fred Toney will not pitch for Cincinnati. This seems certain, as the Federal grand jury has returned an indictment against the Cincinnati mainstay for trying to evade the selective draft law. The pitcher claimed that he was the sole support of his mother and several other relatives, but this was not borne out by facts.

IRON MAN JACK COOMBS.
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Griffmen Here Saturday For Exhibition Game With Braves

GRIFFMEN WILL BE HOME ON SATURDAY FOR AN EXHIBITION

How Griffins Play This Week
Today—At Chattanooga, Tenn.
Tomorrow—At Atlanta, Ga.
Tuesday—At Columbia, S. C., against Philadelphia.
Wednesday—At Greenville, S. C., against Philadelphia.
Thursday—At Richmond, Va., against Boehling's Battle Ax team.
Friday—At Norfolk, Va., against Boston Braves.
Saturday—At Georgia Avenue Park, against Braves.

By LOUIS A. DOUGHER.
The Griffmen will be home Saturday. They will battle the Boston Braves at Georgia Avenue in the lone exhibition game scheduled for the Capital this spring.

This week the Griffmen face their first big league pitching of the 1918 season since they stacked up against the Phillies in two games at army camps in South Carolina and in two more with the Braves, one at Norfolk and the other here.

Today's lineup, however, is being played at Chattanooga, and tomorrow the fourth day, they meet with the Atlanta Crackers, who will be played. Then the team will head for Chattanooga, where they may stage another exhibition game, but hardly call them any, now that all baggage has to be carried as train schedules are far from good.

The Griffmen should be victorious in their games with the Philadelphia Braves, for both National League clubs have made sorry showings thus far. The Phillies especially are made of players, especially pitchers, while Miller Huggins' Yankees have mauled the Braves all around the lot, wherever they have faced them.

Manager Griffith will use the remaining practice games on his schedule to round his pitchers into condition for the opening of the league campaign here a week from tomorrow. Much depends upon pitching in the early days of the season, and the Old Fox wants no handicap in this department.

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Roy Massey, playing left field for the Braves, is another former Griffman. He is a fast outfielder who looked good enough at Minneapolis to be bought by the Boston club.

Sale Opens Tomorrow.
The advance ticket sale for the opening game of the season starts tomorrow at 9 o'clock at the ball park. There will be plenty of windows in action for the fans. Beginning Tuesday all tickets will be sold at Spaulding's, Fourteenth street, for the opening contest on the 10th.

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TO THE PUBLIC--THANKS

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These kindnesses are particularly appreciated by us in view of the fact that the contractors had not quite completed their work on our entrance.

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Walk—Flight—Save \$5 to \$10

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LEE TIRES are also obtainable here in the 5,000-Mile Guaranteed CORD TIRE. We do not hesitate to assure you that 10,000 miles are readily made with no trouble. Then again, there is the regular 5,000-mile guaranteed tire. A wonderful tire at prices that would surprise you.

The Pneumatic Puncture-proofs are guaranteed against punctures. For every time you puncture a Lee Puncture-Proof Tire the following refund of money is given to you according to the size of your tire:

3-inch Tires....\$3.00 Net	4-inch Tires....\$5.00 Net	5-inch Tires....\$6.50 Net
3½-inch Tires....\$4.00 Net	4½-inch Tires....\$5.50 Net	5½-inch Tires....\$7.00 Net

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